

Morning sermon series – Anchored: Find Grace, Stand Firm

Complete Salvation (Hebrews 7v1-19)

Some things are good to keep and to carry on using; some things are far better moved on from! In chapter 7, the writer is saying these people are in danger of relying on an old way of approaching God that is now obsolete (and no longer even achieves what it used to).

What does it mean to you to depend on the better hope and promise (v19) of the new covenant which Jesus guarantees (v22)?

1) Complete Saviour (7v1-10)

Jesus was made complete (or “perfected”) by his obedient sufferings and death for us (5v9) – he is the Complete Saviour, not lacking anything we need! Like Melchizedek, Jesus is both Priest AND King (6v20-7v3), as prophesised by David throughout Psalm 110. (Verses 1 and 2 of Hebrews 7 are a summary of what happens in Gen 14v19-20, after Abraham has rescued Lot, where Abraham is blessed by Melchizedek).

These verses, v3-10, are quite complicated, but the main point is that Jesus’ priesthood (which is “forever, in the order of [or ‘like’] Melchizedek”) is totally different from, and superior to (v6-8), the old, Levitical priesthood. Jesus is not only Priest, but also the King who now lives forever. The whole of Israel (v9-10), through Abraham its patriarch (v4), honours Melchizedek, who points us to Jesus Christ and his resurrection (v8).

2) Complete Salvation (7v11-19)

The law and the Levitical priesthood are weak and useless (v11-12, 18-19) when it comes to saving and perfecting sinners. The law cannot give LIFE (see also Galatians 3v21). There’s a lifeless, imprisoning kind of religion that is thirsty for God, but looks in vain to law and strict observance to get an audience with God (experience of the Oxford ‘Holy Club’).

The unfailing promise of Hebrews 10v14 gives unspeakable joy and freedom in knowing, loving and praising God. A sealed, completed salvation, with conscience cleansed.

Anchored in the Perfection of the Saviour!

Evening sermon series – God’s Kindness to Us

God’s Grace When You Are Down (Ecclesiastes 9v7-9)